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EASTERN EUROPE

✓ Communist Deviation Within recent weeks, the dis-integrating effect on international Communism of Tito's defection from the Soviet orbit has become increasingly apparent and could eventually result in the formation of a Tito supported, anti-Stalinist Communist movement. In France, Germany, and Italy, Communists supporting Tito have defied the Party, and there are increasing indications that groups as yet unorganized have rallied to his support even in the Satellites. At some future time, these dissidents who opposed Soviet Communism both before and after the Tito-Kremlin rift may unite to form an organization which would seriously challenge the Soviet position as the leading Communist state and as the sole interpreter of Communist doctrine. A necessary premise to an amalgamation of these dissident Communist groups is the need to abandon the many sharply divergent interpretations of the Marxist-Leninist doctrine. If a dispute on these divergent views could be postponed temporarily, a Communist movement, not oriented toward Moscow and without prejudice to national sovereignty, might develop that would carry considerably more appeal and influence, especially in non-Communist countries, than Stalinism. In the Satellites, the USSR has already felt it necessary to take stringent measures against nationalist deviation. Tito would undoubtedly sympathize with any such anti-Stalinist defection, but he is not likely to give his overt support to it at this time. If, however, an independent Communist movement gains momentum, he might well aspire to become its rallying point.

HUNGARY

 Treason Trial The current trial in Budapest involving ex-Minister of Interior Laszlo Rajk and other disaffected Communists differs in one important respect from the numerous postwar treason trials in the Satellites. Until now, the arch-enemy, has been the "imperialist" West. In the current trial, Tito has replaced the West as the principal villain. Although the trial is thus another weapon being used by the Kremlin in the war of nerves against Yugoslavia, it is designed primarily to unify the Party by eliminating a dangerous deviationist group and to demonstrate to Communists throughout the Soviet orbit the futility of defying the USSR. That the Kremlin feels it necessary to stage the trial at this time, however, indicates both the strength of anti-Moscow feeling among Satellite Communists and the need for continuing drastic measures by the USSR to keep its Satellite parties in line.